region and the staff strength of the Office will be determined on the basis of coverage.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Privatisation of EPF

1035. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to privatise Employees Provident Fund;

(b) whether there is any demand from the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) to privatise the EPF; and

(c) if so, what are the alternative schemes suggested by the IRDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal.

Government's decision on Labour Commission Report

†1036. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decisions on the Report of the Labour Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when Government propose to take decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The Second National Commission on Labour in its report has made a wide ranging recommendations on various facets of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security, women and child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganised sector etc. The Ministry has held consultations and interactions with the workers' representatives, employers' organizations, experts, professionals etc. The recommendations of the Commission were discussed in the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September 2002 and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers held on 7-8 November 2002 and also in a Tripartite Committee meeting held on 18-19 February 2003. Such steps are being taken to bring about a workable consensus for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission. However, given the procedure involved, it is not possible to specify the time limit.

Pending proposals from Labour Department of Chhattisgarh

†1037. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the proposal received till date from the Labour Department of Chhattisgarh Government pending for approval with the Central Government;

(b) the reasons for not according approval so far; and

(c) by when all the pending proposals, particularly accommodation related matter of beedi labourers of Rajnandgaon, would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The proposals for grant of subsidy for 254 houses for beedi workers in Rajnandgaon submitted by the Labour Department of Chhattisgarh Government was found incomplete. The requisite information in this regard is yet to be received from the State Government.

Employees Provident Fund

1038. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering to amend the Employees Provident Fund Act to enable the employees to pay their housing instalments from the accruals of their provident fund account;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments to be brought before the Parliament; and

(c) whether Government would bring the proposed amendments before the Parliament during its current session?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.